

**STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY GOVERNING BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 12, 2015**

**ATTENDEES:** Leo Dutton, Chair, Lewis & Clark Co. Sheriff ; Quinn Ness for Ron Baldwin, SCIO; Joe Briggs, MACO; Mike Doto, MVFFA; Jon Swartz, MDT, Tom Butler, DOJ/MHP; Jason Smith, Office of Indian Affairs; Bonnie Lorang, MITS; Geoff Feiss, MTA

**GUESTS:** Art Collins, DOJ/MHP; Mike Feldman, DOJ/MHP; Dale Osborn, DOJ/MHP; Steve Keller, MDT; Chad Hultin, DOA/SITSD; Rhonda Sullivan, DOA/SITSD; Trudy Skari, DOA/SITSD; Dan Sullivan, DOA/SITSD

**CONFERENCE CALL:** Patrick Lonergan, MFCA; Roger Nasset, MACOP; Charlie Gilmore, L&C Co; Brad Livingston, DMA/DES; Kevin Myhre, MLCT; Erin Lutts, Mid Rivers Communications; Keith Cook, Motorola Solutions

**CALL TO ORDER:** Leo Dutton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The April minutes were approved with no motion made.

**STATUS REPORTS:**

Statewide Trunked LMR System: Quinn Ness reported on the following:

- The final invoice and reimbursement has been received for the key management facility (OTAR project).
- Charlie Gilmore reported that everything with OTAR is ready to go.
- Motorola Extended Warranty project:
  - Waiting on invoices from Motorola.
  - Extended Warranty Funds: The following counties/sites have not responded: DMA/DES (Highwood Baldy); S&K Tribe (Jette); Powell Co. (Cominco) and Dawson Co. (Makoshika and Fallon).
  - Equipment ownership is still in question at the Highwood Baldy site.
- Since SIGB approved the completion of the backbone using MW technologies, work will begin with MHP on the Interagency Agreement to transfer the necessary budget authority to them and the MW hops between Pompey's Pillar to Hathaway will be completed.

FirstNet Broadband Network: Dan Sullivan reported:

- Warren Dupuis has contacted all public safety associations requesting lists of association membership, along with MACO and MT League of Cities and Towns.
- This information will go into a data base for FirstNet and passed along to memberships on the survey, then will be returned Dan to submit to FirstNet.

- The deadline for receiving all information has been extended to September 30.
- Dan provided a State Plan Elements slide presentation by TJ Kennedy which highlighted the following topics:
  - The State Equation: Cost to serve/density of population.
  - Proposed FirstNet approach in draft RFP documents, phases and expansions.
  - Nationwide and regional RAN approaches.
  - Potential opportunities for engagement in the year ahead.
  - Still considering how to contract out the Special Notice draft RFP. The Nationwide Core Network seems to be the direction they're heading at this time.

Trudy Skari announced that FirstNet in Montana has implemented a Web Site Photo Challenge, as they are looking for photo representation for the web page of first responders in Montana. All aspects of first and second response can be submitted.

### **Public Comment:**

Leo Dutton invited comments on the 2015 legislative session:

- Tom Butler reported that MHP has some major upcoming fiscal issues including HB35, so he will not be able to provide as much assistance in the future; and MHP will not be involved in the next legislative session.
- Kevin Myhre asked Leo Dutton to recap legislative issues:
  - No funding for the statewide LMR system was approved by the Legislature. So there are no funds for maintenance or build out, and counties are left to maintain their own systems.
- Joe Briggs: Funding suggestions were too late in coming, and timing was not good. The Legislature believes the system is a waste of time and funding.
- Geoff Feiss: Should have approached Legislature with a comprehensive approach to public safety communications. Timing was atrocious. There is a long way to go, but he feels the ball was moved forward somewhat.
- Bonnie Lorang: If moving forward with vetting funding sources, suggestions need to come straight from SIGB. There is no transparency.
- Jason Smith doesn't believe we were too late to the ballgame. And as far as transparency, he stated that efforts are transparent enough, and that we did as much as we could.
- Charlie Gilmore pointed out the successes to date, and thanked the Board for the last year's opportunity as well as Quinn Ness for securing funding for last year's appropriations. This allowed for completion of the upgrade, to acquire the equipment for the OTAR system, and Motorola dispatch upgrades.
- Leo provided an example of how well the radio system does work, and believes it was not a waste of \$65 million. Questions need to be considered: Is it being built the wrong way? Who should the customers be? Do we go with a trunked or P25 system? The process needs to be re-evaluated.
- Kevin Myhre: Not a lot of knowledge with legislators and more education needs to be done. They need to be made aware of who uses the system and its capabilities.
- Patrick Lonergan stated that the MT Fire Chiefs hold value in the microwave system; however, there are a lot of mixed feelings with trunked radio.

- Mike Doto reported that a recent conference call took place with the Fire Chief's Assoc. and & Volunteer Fire Fighters and many departments are worried that the system will not benefit them.
- Tom Butler suggested sitting down with Geoff Feiss and implementing a new business plan; and that there is no need to duplicate efforts, since ample funding has been spent across the state in duplicate efforts on other radio systems.
- Geoff Feiss and Leo Dutton discussed the future of SIGB, and if there is any need to continue. However, the Governor would have to make this decision.
- Joe Briggs suggested taking what's been done so far and refining it; then deciding on what system to build from, trunked or P25; as well as look at it as a business plan and not as at a leap of faith. Need a fundamental structure.
- Other suggestions included: 1) Inviting a professor to develop a business plan; and 2) a board retreat for strategic planning and business plan development.

**Next Meeting:** The next SIGB meeting is Tuesday, June 9 at the MDT Commissions Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The meeting adjourned 2:45 pm.